



State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	CAL FIRE Academy - Off Highway Vehicle Training Course		
PROJECT LOCATION	CAL FIRE Academy 4501 State Highway 104 Ione, CA 95640-9705	COUNTY	Amador
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Kevin Locke, Division Chief		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Academy 4501 State Highway 104 Ione, CA 95640-9705	PHONE	(209) 274-5505

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the use of a 300-acre parcel of land to hold training on the operations of off-road vehicles such as fire engines. This parcel is owned by Mule Creek State Prison. CAL FIRE has received permission to conduct these training exercises upon their lands. This parcel contains approximately seven miles of existing roads which vary in width. Most road segments are unimproved dirt roads. A few short sections are graveled. For safety and to minimize environmental impacts, vehicles will not travel faster than 15 mph. All vehicles will be kept entirely upon the existing roads. No additional road segments of any kind will be constructed, nor will any road be widened, nor will any vehicle be driven off existing road surfaces. No vegetation removal, cutting, piling, or burning shall occur until authorized by a subsequent environmental document. No activity will take place in the stream buffer zones and there will be no new stream crossings. No activity will take place on any roads when soils are saturated as defined in the Forest Practice Rules. All driving performed by the student operators will be supervised by subject matter experts that will be teaching the class at the Academy. The project area ranges in elevation from 390 to 600 feet. Plant species typical to the area include foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*). Shrubs are manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*) and yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*). The project areas contain minor watercourses.

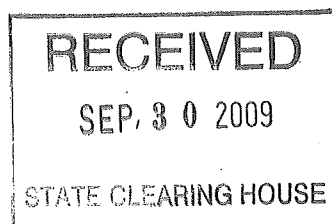
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 §15301 Existing Facilities
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project is exempt because all activities will take place on the existing roads and restrictions have been put in place to eliminate or minimize environmental impacts. The Department has completed cultural resource studies and is currently expanding its research to develop current biological inventories. No known sensitive resource exists which would be affected. The project meets the definition for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption to CEQA as it involves operations upon existing public structures and facilities. A Registered Professional Forester on staff at the CAL FIRE Academy has reviewed the project and determined that no environmental impact will occur.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



For William E. Snyder, Deputy Director 9/30/09
Date